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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7969
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0236

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000442

SIPDIS

BAGHDAD FOR AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/03/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [KISL](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: GOB SUSPENDS CHARGES AGAINST SIX ARRESTED FOR SECTARIAN WEB POSTINGS REF: A. MANAMA 420 B. MANAMA 430 Classified By: DCM Christopher E

1. (C) Summary: Bahrain's interior ministry ordered two Sunni websites and one Shi'a site to shut down June 26, accusing them of inciting sect
2. (U) Following the GOB's announcement June 22 that a committee of the interior, information, and justice ministries would "monitor" media fc
3. (C) On June 28, the Bahrain National Security Agency (BNSA) summoned six individuals, three of whom were affiliated with the Awaal site. Th
4. (C) On July 2, Attorney General Ali Al Buainain informed the six that the charges would be suspended in exchange for their promise to post
5. (C) Local daily al-Wasat, (liberal, identified with the Shi'a community), reported that two of the six alleged that they had been "tortured
6. (C) Mansour Al Jamri, editor in chief of Al Wasat, told DCM the monitoring committee's actions appeared to be directed exclusively against
7. (C) Comment: Traditionally, the interior, justice, or information ministries have quietly reasoned with writers, bloggers and preachers whc